

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCS-06 H-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 AID-05
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 TRSE-00 XMB-02
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O 171446Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9592

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 3340

E.O. 11652\$ GDS
TAGS: ETRD, GPRS, RO
SUBJECT: PROPERTY CLAIMS OF U.S. CITIZENS/DECREE 223

REF: BUCHAREST 3024

1. IN MAY 17 MEETING WITH DPM AND MINISTER OF FINANCE
PAUL NICULESCU, AMBASSADOR RAISED SUBJECT OF PROPERTY
CLAIMS/DECREE 223. AMBASSADOR BEGAN BY MENTIONING OUR
PREVIOUS CONTACT ON THIS SUBJECT WITH DPM PATAN,
AMBASSADOR'S SUBSEQUENT MAY 4 MEETING WITH DPM BURTICA,
AND OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THREE CASES GIVEN TO BURTICA
WERE NOW WITH MINISTRY OF FINANCE FOR RIEVIW.
AMBASSADOR FURTHER STATED THAT IN NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS
WITH GOR, WE HAVE ESTABLISHED SYSTEM FOR DEALING WITH
THESE CLAIMS WHICH IS CONFIDENTIAL ONE BETWEEN GOR
AND USG. HE ADDED THAT WE HAVE NOW SUBMITTED THREE
CASES AND WE WONDERED IF THERE WERE ANY MOVEMENT ON THEM
AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME.

2. NICULESCU REPLIED THAT GOR HAD NOT YET REACHED
DECISION ON THIS SUBJECT FOR TWO REASONS: (1) HE IS
NEW AND HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO DEAL IN DEPTH WITH
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THIS MATTER, AND (2) PROBLEM OF COMPENSATION ON PROPERTY
CLAISM COMES UNDER DECREE 223, WHICH PROVIDES SINGULAR
SET OF CRITERIA FOR DEALING WITH PROPERTY CLAIMS
WHETHER THEY BE OF ROMANIAN CITIZENS, U.S. CITIZENS
OR OTHERS. NICULESCU ADDED THAT IF GOR GAVE PARTIAL,
SPECIAL TREATMENT TO ONE (FOREIGN) GROUP OR ANOTHER, IT WOULD
CREATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ROMANIAN CITIZENS;

HOWEVER, HE SAID GOR WAS LOOKING FOR SOLUTION.
REGARDING THREE CASES EMBASSY HAS PRESENTED TO GOR,
NICULESCU SAID THAT HE HAD NORDERED JUDETE AUTHORITIES
IN LOCALITIES WHERE CLAIMS ORIGINATED TO PROVIDE
MINISTRY WITH DETAILED INFORMATION ON CLAIMS.
NICULESCU STATED THAT GOR IS LOOKING FOR POSITIVE
SOLUTION, BUT IT IS LIMITED IN WHAT IT CAN DO.

3. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT QUESTION OF PROPERTY CLAIMS
IS ONE THAT HAS BEEN UNDER REVIEW FOR SOME TIME AND
WHICH HAS BEEN EXAMINED TOGETHER AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL
AND ALSO IN CONTEXT OF JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION. HE
ADDED THAT IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT BECAUSE OF
IMPORTANCE OF WHOLE QUESTION OF WHAT IS CONSIDERED TO
BE ADEQUATE AND JUST SETTLEMENT, THE GOR SHOULD MAKE
EVERY EFFORT TO FIND SOLUTION. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT
WE PREVIOUSLY OPEJFTED WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT GOR HAD
MADE DECISION THAT SOLUTION WOULD BE FOUND AND WE
WOULD WANT TO PRESENT PROPERTY CLAIMS IN SPIRIT OF
UNDERSTAND
NG AND WITH HOPE THAT THEY COULD BE REVIEWED
IN THIS SPIRIT. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT IF BOTH SIDES
CAN CONTINUE TO WORK ON PROBLEM TOGETHER, SOLUTION
PROBABLY COULD BE FOUND. HE OFFERED TO SUPPLY MINISTRY
IF NEEDED WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HISTORY OF OUR
UNDERSTANDING REGARDING SOLUTION ON PROPERTY CLAIMS
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QUESTION OR TO ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMA-
TION ON SPECIFIC CLAIMS. HE STATED THAT WE HAVE PRE-
SENTED SO FAR ONLY THOSE CASES IN WHICH WE CONSIDER
DOSSIER TO BE COMPLETE. HE SAID AS OTHER DOSSIERS
ARE COMPLETED, WE WILL PRESENT THEM.

4. NICULESCU SAID HE WAS IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH
AMBASSADOR AND THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR
POSITIVE SOLUTION. HE SAID THESE WERE THE INSTRUCTIONS
HE HAD GIVEN TO HIS ASSISTANTS IN MIMINISTRY. YP SAID HE
HOPES TO GET RESPONSE FROM JUDETE AUTHORITIES IN NEXT
FEW DAYS AFTER WHICH HE WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE AMBASSADOR
RESPONSE.

5. COMMENT. FROM WHAT NICULESCU SAID, IT APPEARS THAT
FINANCE MINISTRY IS DESIROUS OF PUTTING TOTAL PRICE TAG ON
COST OF RESOLVING U.S. CITIZENS' PROPERTY CLAIMS BEFORE
IT RECOMMENDS SOLUTION TO HIGHER GOR AUTHORITIES.
NICULESCU'S STATEMENT REGARDING HIS DESIRE THAT POSI-
TIVE SOLUTION BE FOUND IS FAVORABLE SIGN BUT IS SOME-
WHAT OFFSET BY HIS STATEMENTS THAT GOR MUST TRETFT
ALL PROPERTY CLAIM STTLEMENTS IN UNITARY FASHION.

NICULESCU'S PROMISE OF EARLY RESPONSE WOULD TEND TO
INDICATE THAT PROBABLY SOME TIME IN JUNE, MINISTRY
WILL GET BACK TO US.
AGGREY

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